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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 HA-05 /087 W
----------058770 200627Z /10
R 200339Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE 3014
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2279

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, UNGA
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF 32ND GENREAL ASSEMBLY

REF : A) STATE 16347, B) STATE 000207, C) STATE 15950

1. DCM MET MARCH 15 WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR UN AFFAIRS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND TOUR D'HORIZON DESCUSSION OF 32ND UNGA, AS SUGGESTED RED A.

2. MFA OFFICIAL AGREED WITH OUR GENERAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SESSION AS LESS CONFORNTATIONAL AND MORE CONTRRUCTIVE THAN PREVIOUS ONES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE GREATER U.S. EFFORT TO SHOW A MORE POSITIVE FACE IN THE UN AND TO ADDRESS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' CONCERNS IN A SERIOUS MANNER. HE FELT THAT THIS HAD PAID OFF FOR THE U.S. ON SUCH ISSUES AS GUAM AND PUERTO REICO AND HOPED WE WOULD CONTINUE THE EFFORT. THE DCM INDICATED OUR INTENTION TO DO SO. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO AGREED THAT SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES MADE LITTLE IMPRESSION ON UNGA, AND THAT THEY HAD NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL TO OFFER ON EITHER THE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC ISSUES BEFORE THE ASSSEMBLY.

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3. DCM NOTED OUR SATISFACTION THAT DEBATE ON MOST POLITICAL ISSUES HAD BEEN MORE MODERATE, BUT WE WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH MIDDLE EAST DEBATE, PARTICULARLY THE WAY IT SEEMED TO TAKE PLACE OBLIVIOUS OF ACTUAL DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT, WHILE THIS WAS TRUE TO AN EXTENT, THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WAS FELT TO BE AN IMPORTANT ONE, AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE BORNE THIS OUT. HE NOTED THAT AFRICAN AND

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CYPRUS ISSUES IN PARTICULAR WERE HANDLED MORE CONTRUCTIVELY, THE LATTER BECAUSE THE TURKS APPARENTLY FEE UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO MODERATE THEIR STAND. HE WAS RELIEVED THAT THE KOREAN QUESTION HAD NOT ARISEN. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD HEARD ANYTHING OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTION TO REOPEN THE ISSUE NEXT FALL, HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD ASKED THIS OF A MEMBER OF VISITING NORTH KOREAN VICE PREMIER KONG'S PARTY HERE LAST WEEK, AND WAS TOLD "PROBABLY NOT".

4. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, GOM WAS DISAPPOINTED IN RESULTS OF DEBATE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, ESPECIALLY ON THE COMMON FUND. DCM REITERATED OUR POSITION ON THE LATTER AND NOTED THE LONG WAY THAT U.S. POLICY HAD ALREADY COME IN MEETING LDC CONCERN ON MANY INTERNATINAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. MFA OFFICIAL AGREED WITH DCM THAT THIS SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED EVEN IF LONG, HARD BARGAININ WAS AHEAD ON SPECIFICS.

5. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE TOUCHED UPON ONLY BRIEFLY.

6. MFA OFFICIAL PERSONALLY SYMPATHIZED WITH MUCH OF OUR CONCERN RE UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS, BASED ON HIS ONW EXPERIENCE IN NEW YORK. HE AGREED THAT CLOSER CONTROL IS NEEDED OF UN FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT IF ANYTHING THE GOM WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO TO ASSIST IN THIS REGARD).

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7. COMMENT: MFA OFFICIAL IS AN EXPERIENCED UN HAND AND REFLECTS THE GENEALLY MODERATE APPROACH OF HIS GOVERNMENT ON UN ISSUES. HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE 32ND UNGA WAS QUITE CLOSE TO OUR OWN ON BOTH THE ATMOSPHERICS AND THE ISSUES. AT THE SAME TIME HIS REMARKS REFLECTED MALAYSIA'S INTENT TO REMAIN DOLIDLY IN THE G-77, NON-ALIGNED, ISLAMIC CAMP, WHERE WE EXPECT IT WILL CONTINUE AS AN OCCASIONAL, BUT NOT PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL OR ACTIVE, MODERATING ELEMENT. HE NOTED THAT ASEAN DELEGATIONS "CONSULTED" ONE ANOTHER AT THE UNGA BUT DID NOT ACT OR VOTE AS A BLOC.
MILLER

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